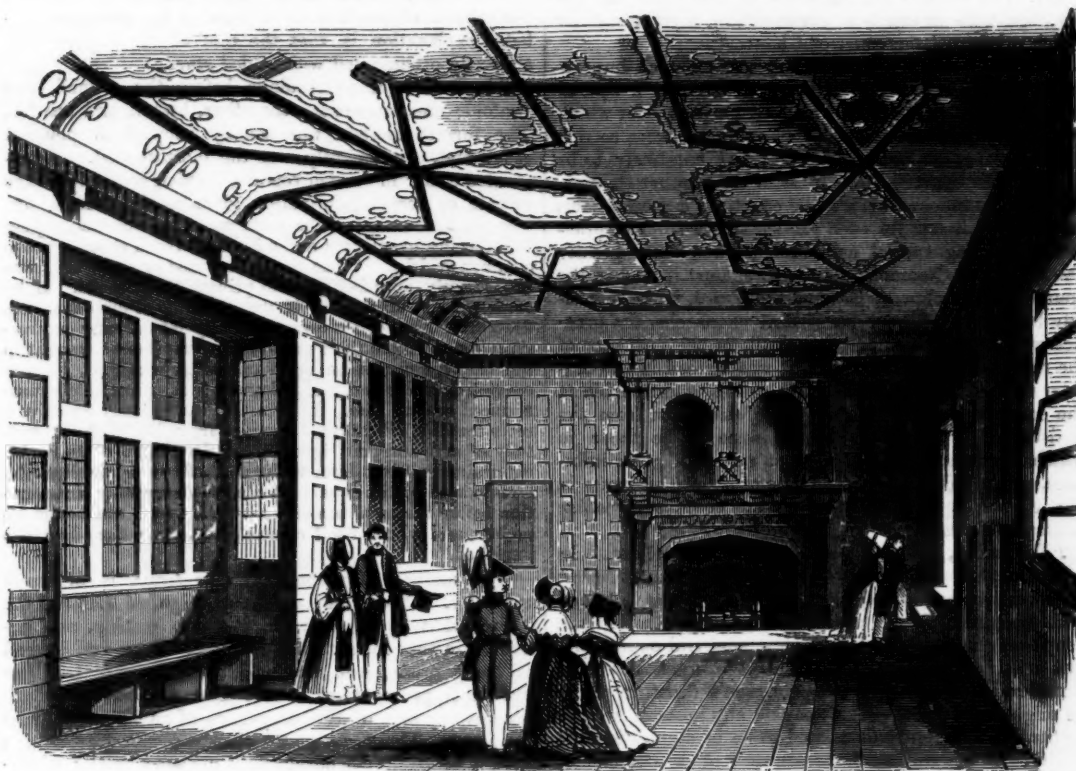




HISTORICAL NOTICE OF THE COURT OF STAR CHAMBER.



INTERIOR OF THE STAR CHAMBER, WESTMINSTER.

I.

The history of the Court of Star Chamber is a curious subject, which does not seem to have been sufficiently elucidated by our greatest historians; for "whilst men were within the reach of this powerful judicature they seem to have been unwilling to inquire too curiously into its origin; and since its overthrow, the loss or destruction of its records has increased the difficulties inseparable from such an investigation." In the reign of Charles the First, a treatise on the Star Chamber was written by William Hudson, of Gray's Inn, Esq., a barrister of considerable practice in that court. This treatise was written for the use of Archbishop Williams, and presented to him upon his appointment as lord keeper. There are several manuscript copies of it in the library of the British Museum. From this and other authentic sources of information, Mr. Bruce has drawn up two interesting notices of the Star Chamber, addressed to the Society of Antiquaries of London, and published in the twenty-fifth volume of the *Archæologia*, from which our notices are abridged.

It is generally agreed that our superior courts of justice originated in the ancient royal court held in the king's palace, before the king himself and the members of his council. It is probable that, in the first instance, these courts were mere committees, appointed by the royal court for the purpose of ridding itself of an accumulation of business; and being found very useful, were

at length permitted to assume the functions of separate tribunals. The king's court, however, continued to exist in a fourfold capacity:—

I. As a court of revision and appeal from the judgment of inferior tribunals—a jurisdiction which came afterwards to be exercised by the House of Lords.

II. The council exercised a sort of directory jurisdiction; that is, the proceedings in the courts of common law being set in motion by writs issued by the clerks in Chancery, and for which certain prescribed forms were adopted and never departed from, except by an order from the council authorizing the clerks to adopt some unusual course. "A curious instance of the pertinacious adherence of the clerks of the Chancery to their forms, occurred in the eighth of Edward II. Henry de la Mare, being in custody upon an accusation of felony, broke out of Wallingford castle. He was overtaken in his flight, and according to the custom of the time, was at once decapitated by his pursuers. Upon an investigation into the nature of his death, it was found by a jury that he was beheaded as a felon, and certain lands which he held under the crown were seized into the king's hands as an escheat. That law, however, which was good in the case of the king, did not seem to the clerks of the Chancery to be good in the case of a subject. An application was made to them for a writ of escheat by Vivian de Staundon, under whom the fugitive felon held lands, as well as under the king, and the clerks refused to grant the writ, because, in their prescribed form, the word *suspensus* was inserted as descriptive of the punishment of the felon, who, in this instance, had been

decollatus. Unable to persuade the clerks either to alter the writ, or to grant the writ, Vivian de Staundon petitioned the council for relief, and an order was made that the writ should be issued; but, as if the council were anxious not to give the clerks of the Chancery any discretion, it was directed that the word *suspensus* should be retained in all cases, whatever might be the nature of the felon's execution."

The council also acted in a directory character towards persons who were doubtful of their remedy in the ordinary courts, for upon petition to the council advice was given.

III. The council had authority to determine matters not cognizable in courts of common law, a practice from which originated the court of Chancery.

IV. The council also acted in cases of such importance as were deemed necessary to demand a special interference. If it were a "heinous trespass," for which speedy remedy were required: if one party were so rich and the other so poor that right was not likely to be done in the courts below; in such cases either the parties were summoned before the court, or a special commission was issued for each particular case. The practice of issuing special commissions was soon greatly abused. The Commons petitioned against it, and in the course of the reign of Edward the Third, it was gradually laid aside. Under succeeding monarchs, the practice was more or less adopted, until, in the fifth year of the reign of Henry the Sixth, it was agreed in the Rotulary Parliament that the only causes determinable at the common law which were to be withdrawn from the decision of the ordinary courts, were to be those in which the complaint was against a man of great influence, or the suitor was too poor to prosecute his cause in the inferior courts; or in which the court saw "*other reasonable cause*."

"In theory, nothing could be more excellent. In turbulent times, it is scarcely necessary to remark, great men were too apt to weigh out justice for themselves, and with no great nicety; a court, therefore, to which the people might fly for relief against powerful oppressors, was most especially needful." Law-charges also were considerable, and this, "the poor man's court, in which he might have right without paying any money," was an institution apparently calculated to be of unquestionable utility. It was the comprehensiveness of the last clause,—the "*other reasonable cause*," which was its ruin. The ministers of despotic princes found little difficulty in considering their own desire to silence their opponents, to be cause reasonable enough for the withdrawal of almost all political cases from the ordinary tribunals.

In the exercise of their judicial authority, the council held their sittings in a chamber of the palace at Westminster, known as "the Council Chamber near the Exchequer," and the "*Chambre des Estoyers*," or "*Estoyles*," near the Receipt of the Exchequer. This chamber is said to have been situated in the outermost quadrangle of the palace, next the bank of the river, and was consequently easily accessible to the suitors. Our frontispiece is chiefly taken from Messrs. Britton and Brayley's *History of the Ancient Palace; and late Houses of Parliament, at Westminster*, in which work the following observations occur:

On the eastern side of the New Palace Yard, near the bank of the Thames, stood various old buildings and offices, formerly belonging to the Exchequer; and adjoining to them, northward, was an arched gateway, apparently of Henry the Third's time, which communicated with a boarded passage and stairs, leading to the water. At different times, since 1807, the whole of this range of building has been pulled down; the last remaining part which included the offices, where the *trials of the pix* and the printing of exchequer bills were recently carried on, was destroyed early in the year 1826. There was also an apartment in the same edifice, in which that despotic tribunal, the Star Chamber Court, held its sittings, during the most obnoxious period of its career; namely, from the end of Queen Elizabeth's reign, until the final abolition of

the Court by Parliament, in 1641. This, however, could not have been the *Chambre des Estoyles*, or *Camera Stellata*, in which the court originally sat, and from which it received its designation; for the building itself was evidently of the Elizabethan age, and the date 1602, with the initials E. R., separated by an open rose on a star, was carved over one of the doorways. An interior view of this latter Star Chamber, as it appeared shortly before its demolition, is shewn in the cut. The ceiling was of oak, and had been very curiously devised in moulded compartments, ornamented with roses, pomegranates, portcullises, and fleurs-de-lys; it had also been gilt and diversely coloured.

The origin of the name "Star Chamber," has been the subject of much learned dispute; but the most probable explanation is, that the roof of the chamber was anciently ornamented with gilded stars.

The course of proceedings before the council, was twofold; one, *ore tenus*; the other, by bill and answer. The former method was usually adopted in political cases, and, consequently, was the most abused. It originated either in "soden reporte," which probably means private or secret information given to the council; or, "by the curious eye of the state and king's council prying into the inconveniences and mischiefs which abound in the commonwealth." "The person accused or suspected, was immediately apprehended and privately examined. If he confessed any offence, or if the cunning of his examiners drew from him, or his own simplicity let fall, any expressions which suited their purpose, he was at once brought to the bar, his confession or examination was read, he was convicted, *ex ore suo*, and judgment was immediately pronounced against him. Imagination can scarcely conceive a more terrible judicature. Dragged from home in the custody of a pursuivant, ignorant of the charge or suspicion entertained against him, without friend or counsellor, the fore-doomed victim was subjected to a searching examination before the members of a tribunal, which was bound by no law, and which itself created and defined the offences it punished."

The method of proceeding, *ore tenus*, is of great antiquity. It was not until the reign of Edward the Third, that pleadings were put into writing, and delivered in that form to the clerks of the court, instead of being pronounced *viva voce* by the counsel. The *ore tenus* prosecutions in the Star Chamber, did not possess any one of the properties of an honest judicial inquiry. "There was no previously declared accusation against which the defendant might prepare himself; wherever resident, he was taken from amongst his neighbours, who, in some cases, were his judges at the common law, and, at all times, were the best witnesses of the tenour of his life, and conveyed in custody to Westminster; there he was not confronted with any accuser, but in the presence of a secret assembly, comprehending some of the most dignified persons of the realm,—an assembly calculated to overawe the boldest offender, and utterly confound a person of any timidity,—he was interrogated upon points of his conduct respecting which the council had received information, through the trustworthy channels of common rumour, or secret information. It is not difficult to conceive how easily a most notable confession might be thus extracted. We are told, indeed, that the confession was to be voluntary, that no bodily torture was to be practised, and that, if the accused would not confess, the council were obliged to adopt the other mode of proceeding by bill. In the meantime, however, the defendant remained in custody. If, to avoid a lingering confinement upon he knew not what charge, he once submitted to examination, the testimony of Hudson informs us, how little scrupulous the judges were as to the nature of his replies, and how unfairly they distorted, to his disadvantage, loose words, uttered by him, probably, in ignorance of the point at which his practised examiners were labouring to arrive. His judges were, in point of fact, his prosecutors, and every mixture of these two characters is inconsistent with impartial justice. However calm the feeling of a prosecutor may be, when he enters into a cause, he soon acquires the keen spirit of a partisan; the idea of defeat gradually becomes painful to him, and, in the end, he dreads a failure as much as if his own personal credit or interest were connected with success."

CONTEMPLATIONS ON THE WEATHER.

COMPARING autumn and spring with summer and winter, days of sunshine and gaiety with others dreary and dark through clouds and rain, and a series of fine, beautiful, and dry weather, with that which is cold, bleak, and rainy, who is not sensible of the difference? It is not our intention, in the present place, to investigate the effects of our climate on the sensitive or animal system, but may it not be one cause of that hardihood or perseverance, so generally ascribed to the natives of our island?

The melancholy, said by foreigners to tinge our habits and dispositions, is by some imputed to our climate, and man is surely more liable to be oppressed by a dead and uniform, than by a lively, atmosphere. On the other hand, we should droop and languish, as herbage on the lawn or the foliage of the trees, under protracted sunshine. There is something acrid in what we call an Italian sky, which accords with the passions that characterize the inhabitants of burning climates. How well described are the noxious scenes of torrid and uncultivated lands, by Goldsmith, in the following picture:

Far different there from all that charmed before,
The various terrors of that horrid shore;
Those blazing suns that dart a downward ray,
And fiercely shed intolerable day;
Those matted woods where birds forget to sing,
But silent bats in drowsy clusters cling;
Those poisonous fields with rank luxuriance crown'd,
Where the dark scorpion gathers death around;
Where at each step the stranger fears to wake
The rattling terrors of the vengeful snake;
Where couching tigers wait their hapless prey,
And savage men, more murderous still than they;
While oft in whirls the mad tornado flies,
Mingling the ravaged landscape with the skies:
Far different these from every former scene,
The cooling brook, the grassy-vested green,
The breezy covert of the warbling grove,
That only shelter'd thefts of harmless love.

But beautiful are the peaceful triumphs of man, over these moral and physical evils of nature and society! Besides the constant vicissitude that pervades the whole mass of material existence, wherever man is stationed, or society improves, art is at work. Who has not marked the alteration introduced by agriculture, gardening, and architecture? Instead of a desert, behold a populous city, in which our busy race pursue their respective callings and professions, in endless and emulous diversity. For the wild, formerly inhabited by the bittern and the raven, the asp and the adder, we have ample inclosures of arable grounds, fields in high cultivation; gardens gay with flowers, and orchards rich with fruit.

Our culture of the earth allures around us birds which charm our ears and delight our hearts with their melody. They derive provision from our industry, and repay us with their songs. They clear the soil of insects; and by building in our shrubberies, partake with us in all the advantages of our improvements.

These local accommodations soften, to a certain degree, the natural asperities of the atmosphere. The air nourishes vegetation, and is in turn loaded with the perfume of flowers. How different is the waste inhospitable heath, from the warm fertile inclosure! Here, everything thrives, and is healthy and vigorous. The wilderness, in the lofty words of antiquity, "becomes glad, and the desert rejoices and blossoms as the rose." The beautiful prophecy, that "every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain," is thus literally accomplished.

Full often have we contemplated the universe in its frigid and torpid state, without heat or comfort. The fields, the trees, the forests, the meadows, the heaths,

the hills, and the valleys—lawns, pleasure-grounds, gardens, shrubberies, and plantations—all denuded of their richest foliage, and stripped of their sweetest mantle! But how soon and how wonderfully does nature revive, and how still more rapid is her progress to maturity!

And what shall we say of the pleasing and transporting variety she introduces everywhere to our attention and admiration? Surely no language can express it better, with greater brevity, or more happily describe the pious effect it ought to produce on our imaginations and hearts, than those of the Psalmist: "Thou renewest the face of the earth."

All this enchanting and delicious gloss of novelty and variety in substance, shape, and colour, so charming and beautiful, from its contrast with the frightful and desolating scene which preceded, can only come from Thee, who art the Father, the Spirit, and the Comfort of every living thing. Sweet and useful, both for health and enjoyment, are the interchanges of wet and dry, cold and heat, frost and thaw, clouds and sunshine; and thankfully ought we to acknowledge the Source of all these bountiful gifts! Wherever we are, Thou art ministering to our pleasures, gratifying our senses, soothing our feelings, and transporting our hearts with a profusion of goodness and mercy! The warmth which cherishes, the light which cheers, the strength which upholds, the food which nourishes, the drink which revives, and the sleep which restores our frail enfeebled powers, are all from Thee, tokens of Thy bounty, and proofs of our constant dependence on Thy care. And we owe Thee our sincerest gratitude for these gracious symbols of Thy indulgence; for the many prospects which impress and captivate our hearts; and especially for all our senses and faculties, which enable us to relish and enjoy them.

Ten thousand precious gifts

My daily thanks employ;

Nor is the least a cheerful heart,

That tastes those gifts with joy.

It is through the commodious medium of the air that we imbibe the balmy breath of heaven, that we experience the friendly auspices of the higher regions; that winds blow, rains fall, and dews distil; that we enjoy the salubrious fragrance of the morning, and that the shadows of the evening, like a pavilion of safety and repose, are dropt around us! By means of this circumambient fluid, the horrors of night are dispelled by the placid and softening effulgence of the moon; and the united transparency of those ethereal lamps that bespangle the vaulted sky radiate our hemisphere with their luminous phenomena. From this we receive the capacity by which our lungs play, our pulses beat, our blood circulates, and all the fine, minute, and master-springs in the animal machine, are impelled and kept alive.

How highly do some few of the manifold mercies vouchsafed to us, rise in our partial estimation, while those of the last importance are overlooked! We ransack the whole globe for a favourite plant, or one valuable mainly for its scarceness, and nature is exhausted to gratify the palate, the eye, and the ear, while those inestimable objects on which even life, and all its blessings and enjoyments absolutely depend, are seldom considered with sufficient interest, or recollected with due sensibility. Yet we cannot open our lips, or raise our eyes, emit a breath, or move a step, without having our hearts impressed with a deep conviction of His goodness, who hath graciously provided such ample and well adapted means for our respiration! Whatever is sweet to the taste, or pleasant to the sight, or agreeable to our senses, in the heavens above, or upon the earth beneath, we enjoy by the exercise of those organs which owe their efficiency, under God, entirely to the atmosphere. It dispenses health by its purity; it braces our nerves by its energy; it animates and invigorates our spirits

by its soft and cheering influence; and it revives and rouses all the dormant and latent springs in our constitution by its freshness and elasticity.

So useful is this vital atmosphere both to the mind and body! The ways in which it contributes to all our powers and enjoyments, are numberless and various. And is not the Author of an accommodation so necessary and appropriate, eminently entitled to our devoutest homage and acknowledgments? Ought not every organ we possess, every faculty we enjoy, to be stirred up to praise His holy name for blessing us thus abundantly, by infusing into his creatures His breath of life? Hereby we live and move and have our being; and it is of the Divine mercy we are not consumed by the very means of life; that the air we respire is not malignant, but salubrious; that we have organs so well adapted for its reception; that they are often kept in repair amidst debility and corruption; and that the vapour in which we are wrapped, as in a mantle of velvet, is not a magazine of disease and death, but of comfort and life.

How manifold are Thy works, O Lord! in wisdom hast Thou made them all!

[Abridged from BASELEY'S *Glory of the Heavens*.]

SUMMER WIND.

It is a sultry day; the sun has drank
The dew that lay upon the morning grass;
There is no rustling in the lofty elm
That canopies my dwelling, and its shade
Scarce cools one. All is silent, save the faint
And interrupted murmur of the bee,
Settling on the sick flowers, and then again
Instantly on the wing. The plants around
Feel the too potent fervour; the tall maize
Rolls up its long green leaves; the clover droops
Its tender foliage, and declines its blooms.
But far in the fierce sunshine tower the hills,
With all their growth of woods, silent and stern,
As if the scorching heat and dazzling light
Were but an element they loved. Bright clouds,
Motionless pillars of the brazen heaven,—
Their bases on the mountains—their white tops
Shining in the far ether—fire the air
With a reflected radiance, and make turn
The gazer's eye away. For me, I lie
Languidly in the shade, where the thick turf,
Yet virgin from the kisses of the sun,
Retains some freshness; and I woo the wind,
That still delays its coming. Why so slow,
Gentle and voluble spirit of the air!
O come, and breathe upon the fainting earth
Coolness and life. Is it that in his caves
He hears me! See on yonder woody ridge,
The pine is bending his proud top; and now,
Among the nearer groves, chesnut and oak
Are tossing their green boughs about. He comes!
Lo! where the grassy meadow runs in waves!
The deep distressful silence of the acene
Breaks up with mingling of unnumbered sounds,
And universal motion. He is come,
Shaking a shower of blossoms from the shrubs,
And bearing on their fragrance; and he brings
Music of birds, and rustling of young boughs,
And sound of swaying branches, and the voice
Of distant waterfalls. All the green herbs
Are stirring in his breath; a thousand flowers,
By the road-side and borders of the brook,
Nod gaily to each other; glossy leaves
Are twinkling in the sun, as if the dew
Were on them yet; and silver waters break
Into small waves, and sparkle as he comes.—BRYANT.

THE first creature of God, in the works of the days, was the light of sense; the last was the light of reason.—BACON.

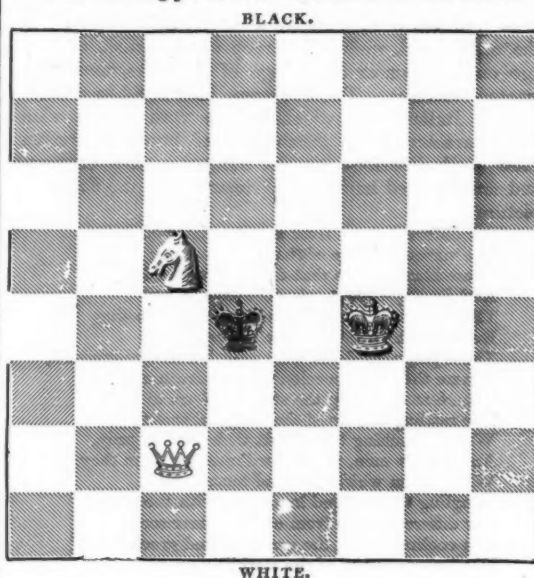
A REFINING life, is a lingering death.—QUARLES.

CURIOUS CHESS PROBLEMS.

XI.

THE following beautiful little problem is by M. Paul Loquin, of Orleans. We have already invited our readers to solve a few problems in two moves, which have been greatly admired for their ingenuity. The following problem will bear comparison with any that have been previously given. We would advise the young student to endeavour to solve it mentally, and not touch the pieces until he is quite sure of the solution. It is by cultivating this habit that chess problems conduce to real improvement in the game.

White moving first, is to check-mate in two moves.



How well it were if we knew nothing of evil, except that it is the opposite of good, and its adversary! This, perhaps, is the definition of innocence.

TRUE modesty consists, not in an ignorance of our own merits, but in a due appreciation of them. Modesty then is but another name for self-knowledge; that is, for absence of ignorance on the one subject which one ought best to understand, as well from its near concernment to us as from our continual opportunities of studying it. And yet it is a virtue.

THOUGHT is the wind, knowledge the sail, and mankind the vessel.

THE progress of knowledge is slow, like the march of the sun. We cannot see him moving, but after a time we may perceive that he has moved onward.

THE mind is like a trunk; if well packed, it holds almost everything; if ill packed, next to nothing.

THE greatest truths are the simplest, so likewise are the greatest men.

WOULD you touch a nettle without being stung by it; take hold of it stoutly. Do the same to other annoyances, and hardly will any thing annoy you.—GUESSES AT TRUTH.

THE painter has no reason to complain, for as all descriptions of creeping plants are very abundant in Ireland, Irish ruins generally wear a very picturesque look. The beautiful ivy hangs its drapery round them all, wild roses, yews, and similar plants nestle everywhere among the broken masonry, and often have I seen the most wretched huts enveloped in a rich full robe of ivy, worthy to luxuriate around the tottering keep of what was once a royal castle. Many a hut, I believe, is made habitable only by the ivy that embraces and upholds it.—KOHLE'S *Ireland*.

OLD ENGLISH NAVIGATORS.

CAPTAIN JOHN DAVIS.

II.

THE discovery of a free passage to the westward; the friendly disposition of the natives, who seemed disposed to afford an abundant supply of skins; and the great ability shown by Davis in the previous voyage, induced the merchants to assist him in fitting out a second expedition. Accordingly, on the 7th of May, 1586, Davis sailed again on a voyage of discovery for the north-west passage, with the *Mermaid*, a ship of one hundred and twenty tons, two barks, the *Sunshine* and the *Moonshine*, and a pinnace named the *North Star*.

In the middle of June they approached the southern extremity of Greenland, but it was "mightily pestered with ice and snow," so that they could not land; they, therefore, bore off, and, by doubling the same, recovered a free sea. On the 29th of June they again discovered land, and sending the pinnace forward as scout, they arrived before this land, which "is very high and mountainous, having before it on the west side, a mighty company of isles, full of faire sounds and harbours."

"The ships being within the sounds, wee sent our boates to search for shole water, where wee might anker, which in this place is very hard to finde: and as the boat went sounding and searching, the people of the country having espied them, came in their canoes towards them, with many shouts and cries; but after they had espied in the boat, some of our company that were the yeere before here with us, they presently rowed to the boate, and tooke holde on the oare, and hung about the boate with such comfortable joy, as would require a long discourse to be uttered; they came with the boates to our ships, making signs that they knewe all those that the yeere before had bene with them. And I perceived their joy and small feare of us, my selfe with the merchants and others of the company went ashore, bearing with me twenty knives: I had no sooner landed, but they lept out of their canoes and came running to mee and the rest, and embraced us with many signes of heartie welcome: at this present there were eighteen of them, and to each of them I gave a knife: they offered skins to me for reward, but I made signes that they were not solde, but given them of courtesie: and so dismissed them for that time, with signes that they should returne againe after certaine houres."

They remained some days at this place, fitting out the pinnace for the purpose of proceeding on the voyage, when the natives flocked around them, eager to barter "seale skinnes, stagge skinnes, white hares, seale-fish, samon peale, smal cod, dry caplin, with other fish, and birds such as the countrey did yeeld."

A party was sent to examine the dwellings of the people, with strict injunctions to offer no injury to them. They found that the natives lived in tents, constructed of a frame of timber, and covered with seal skins: they contained a store of dried fish, chiefly caplin, which is described as a fish not larger than a pilchard; they also found in the tents, "bags of trane oyle, many little images cut in wood, seale skinnes in tan tubs, with many other such trifles, whereof they diminished nothing." They also discovered ten miles within the snowy mountains, much flat grassy land, similar to the moors of England, a large river and an inlet, which proved to be a deep bay.

While remaining here, the sailors tried their skill with the natives in leaping and wrestling: in the former the sailors excelled; but in the latter the victory seems to have been divided equally. The people are described as "of good stature, well in body proportioned, with small, slender hands and feet, with broad visages, and small eyes, wide mouthes, the most part unbearded, great lips, and close-toothed." "They eate all their meate rawe, they live most upon fish, they drinke salte water, and eat grasse and ice with delight; they are never out of the water, but live in the nature of fishes, save only when dead sleepe overtaketh them, and then under a warme rocke, laying his boate upon the land, hee lyeth downe to sleepe. Their weapons are all darts, but some of them

have bowe and arrowes and slings. They make nets to take their fish of the finne of the whale."

Their disposition was found to be thievish: they could scarcely resist the temptation to steal, when a piece of iron was anywhere to be seen: they exercised their skill in the use of the knives which had been given to them, by cutting away the *Moonlight's* boat from her stern; "they cut our cloth where it lay to aire, though wee did carefully looke unto it, they stole our oares, a caliver, a boate speare, a sword, with divers other things." Upon this, a couple of shots were fired over their heads, "which strange noise did sore amaze them, so that with speed they departed," but after some hours they returned with peace offerings of seal skins and salmon; but no sooner did they perceive some iron, than they committed a new theft. It affords a pleasing trait in the character of Davis, that, on hearing of the new theft, he laughed, gave an order that the people should not be "hardly used, but that the company should be more vigilant to keepe their things, supposing it to be very hard in so short a time to make them know their evils."

Davis proceeded in the pinnace to explore somewhat the interior of the country, and sailing up what appeared to be a large river, he was met by a storm of wind, and forced to land. He ascended a lofty peak, hoping thus to see the nature of the country; but "the mountains were so many and so mightie, that his purpose prevailed not." He describes what appears to have been a waterspout, viz. "a mightie whirle-winde taking up the water in very great quantitie, furiously mounting it into the aire, which whirlewinde was not for a puffe or blast, but continual for the space of three houres, with very little intermission." The next morning he re-embarked, and penetrated higher up the channel, and found, to his surprise, not a continent, but "huge waste and desert isles, with mighty sounds and inlets passing betweene sea and sea." On returning to the ships, Davis found that the sailors and the natives had disagreed on account of the thefts committed by the latter, and the quarrel became so urgent that the natives had assailed the ship's crews with their slings, and as they reported to the captain, "they spare us not with stones of halfe a pound weight: and wil you still endure these injuries: it is a shame to beare them." But Davis still gave them mild and tolerant treatment, and even bestowed a number of gifts upon them; but having received his presents, they gave him a shower of stones in return: whereupon Davis gave permission for two boats to chase the offenders; but they rowed so swiftly that the sailors returned with "small content." Two days after, five natives appeared and offered to make a fresh truce; but the master reported to Davis that one of them was the chief ringleader, "a master of mischief:" whereupon he was captured, and a fair wind suddenly springing up, they set sail and carried him away; determined to retain him until a stolen anchor should be returned. The native, however, soon became reconciled to his lot, and was a pleasant companion. "I gave him," says Davis, "a new sute of frize after the English fashion, because I saw he could not endure the colde, of which he was very joyfull, he trimmed up his darts, and all his fishing tooles, and would make okam, and set his hande to a rope's end upon occasion."

Davis sailed across the bay, and, on the 17th, they descried some "very high cliffe land, with bayes and capes," but on approaching it, it was discovered to be an enormous mass of ice. It was, in fact, that immense barrier which often occupies the middle of Baffin's Bay during a great part of the season. They sailed by the side of this mighty obstacle until the 30th, when they found it to be a bar to all further progress. Their ropes and sails were completely frozen, and the air loaded with fog; all this was the more remarkable to our navigators, considering that, in the preceding year, this sea was open and navigable.

Our men, through this extremity, began to grow sick and feeble, and withall hopelesse of good successe: whereupon very orderly, with good discretion they intreated me to regard the state of this busines, and withall advised me that, in conscience, I ought to regard the safte of mine owne life with the preservation of theirs, and that I should not, through my over boldness, leave their widowes and fatherlesse children to give me bitter curses. This matter in conscience did greatly move me to regard their estates; yet, considering the excellence of the businesse if it might be attained, the great hope of certaintie by the last yeare's discoverie, and that there was yet a third way not put in practise, I thought it would growe to my great disgrace, if this action, by my negligence, should growe into discredit: whereupon seeking helpe from God, the fountaine of all mercies, it pleased his Divine Majestie to move my heart to prosecute that which I hope shall be to His glory, and to the contentation of every Christian minde.

Then, considering that the *Mermaid* was not so convenient and nimble as a smaller bark, especially in such desperate hazards, and that the merchants paid no less than a hundred pounds per month for the hire of that ship, he determined to furnish the *Moonlight* with sufficient stores and men to proceed "in this action as God should direct."

Proceeding on his voyage with a favourable wind, Davis turned the ice, and, on the 1st of August, in lat. 66° 33', he discovered land free from snow and ice. This land was found to consist of numerous islands, with the sea on all sides. They found the weather very warm, and the mosquitoes "did sting grievously." They also had a friendly intercourse with some natives, accepting a seal as a present, and bartering skins. They continued during many days to beat about, sometimes having great hopes of a "thorough passage;" at other times becalmed; and at other times borne away by a great current striking to the west. They continued during some days to sail among numerous islands, and a mainland, which they coasted until the 28th, and found it still to bear towards the south. Here they found large quantities of sea birds, and abundance of cod fish. They also arrived at a very fair harbour, and sailed ten leagues into it. The land (which is Labrador) is described as having fair woods, consisting of fir, "pine-apple," alder, yew, and birch, and abounding in game.

They coasted the shore during a few days, and on the 4th of September anchored in a very good road among numerous islands, the country flat and woody. Eight leagues to the north of this place they had great hopes of finding the passage, because of "a mightie great sea passing betweene two lands west." Here they found of "foule and fish a mightie store." Davis sent five of his men on shore to procure a supply, when they were suddenly set upon by some savages who were lurking in the woods, and before Davis could fire a gun for their relief, two of the men were shot dead with arrows, two more were grievously wounded, and the fifth escaped by swimming. Their troubles were further increased by a violent storm, an account of which we will give in the simple language of the narrator:—"This present evening it pleased God further to increase our sorrowes with a mighty tempestuous storme, the winde being north-north-east, which lasted unto the tenth of this moneth very extreme. We unrigged our ship, and purposed to cut downe our masts; the cable of our sheet-anker brake, so that we onely expected to be driven on shoare among these cannibals for their pray. Yet in this deepe distresse the mightie mercie of God, when hope was past, gave us succour, and sent us a faire lee, so as we recovered our anker againe and nowe moored our ship; where we saw that God manifestly delivered us: for the straines of one of our cables were broken, and we only roade by an olde junkie. Thus being freshly moored, a new storme arose, the winde being west-north-west, very forcible, which lasted unto the tenth day at night. The eleventh day, with a faire west-north-west winde we departed with trust in God's mercie, shaping our course for England, and arrived in the west countrey in the beginning of October."

Soon after his return Davis wrote a letter to Mr.

Sanderson, the chief adventurer, dated from Exeter the 14th of October, 1586, in which he says, "I have now experience of much of the north-west part of the world, and have brought the passage to that likelihood, as that I am assured it must bee in one of foure places, or els not at all. And further, I can assure you, upon the perill of my life, that this voyage may be performed without further charge, nay, with certaine profite to the adventurers, if I may have but your favoure in the action."

The merchants who had hitherto favoured the expedition for the most part refused to contribute to a third trial; but at the instigation chiefly of the Lord Treasurer Burleigh, and Secretary Walsingham, Davis was enabled to proceed on a third voyage in the following year, 1587.

Having in his last voyage discovered large quantities of cod-fish, two vessels were sent out with him for the purposes of fishing, one pinnace only being devoted to the voyage of discovery. They sailed on the 19th May, and on the 14th June they discovered at some distance a rocky land covered with snow. On the 21st of June the two barks left him, with the promise not to depart till August, when he would return to them. In the mean time Davis pursued his voyage, coasting towards the north; and on the 28th he reached a point which he named Hope Sanderson, in upwards of 72°, the sea being still open to the west and north. The wind having changed, he sailed forty leagues to the west without seeing land. On the 2nd July, he encountered a large bank of ice, which involved him in considerable difficulty; but having happily escaped, he came at length within sight of Mount Raleigh, and afterwards anchored among a group of islands, which he named the Earl of Cumberland's Isles. On quitting this place he sailed back south-east, in order to get into open water again, and succeeded in doing so in 62° lat. On the 30th he passed a great bank or inlet, to which he gave the name of Lumley's Inlet; and the next day he passed a headland, which he called the Earl of Warwick's Foreland. On the 1st August he fell in with the southernmost cape, named by him Chudley's Cape; and on the 12th passed an island, which he called Darcy's Island. When he arrived in 52° lat., he found that the two ships had departed without him: he was in much distress, having but little wood and fresh water remaining. However, taking courage, he made the best of his way home, and arrived at Dartmouth on the 15th September. On the next day he wrote to Mr. Sanderson as follows:—"I have made my safe returne in health, with all my company, and have sailed threescore leagues further than my determination at my departure. I have been in 73°, finding the sea all open, and forty leagues between land and land. The passage is most probable, the execution easie, as at my coming you shall fully know." But the Spanish invasion happening the year following, and Mr. Secretary Walsingham dying two years after, the design was set aside, and not again attempted by Davis. A few years after his return, Davis published an interesting and vivid summary of his three voyages. Mr. Sanderson employed Molyneux, the best artist of the time, to construct a globe, which comprised all Davis's discoveries. This globe is still in existence in the library of the Middle Temple.

But this zealous navigator did not remain idle. In August, 1591, he was appointed captain of the *Desire*, rear-admiral to Mr. Thomas Cavendish, in his second unfortunate expedition to the South Seas. After many disasters, Davis arrived in Ireland in June, 1593. After this, he performed no less than five voyages to the East Indies, as pilot: one of these was in the service of the Dutch. The last voyage of Davis was in company with Sir Edward Michelbourne, during which Davis lost his life in a desperate conflict with some Japanese pirates, who craftily obtained possession of the ship.

THE KITCHEN GARDEN

VI.

JUNE.

So manifold, all pleasing in their kind,
All healthful, are the employs of rural life,
Reiterated as the wheel of time
Runs round; still ending, and beginning still.

At the commencement of June it is customary to sow the seed for open-ground crops of cucumber: the general culture of this plant may therefore here be noticed, with its history and qualities.

The common, or garden cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*), belongs to a tribe of plants invaluable to natives of hot climates. This is the Gourd Tribe (*Cucurbitaceæ*), containing the melon, the cucumber, the vegetable marrow, and various other gourds, among which is the colocynth gourd, from which is prepared the colocynth now so much used in medicine. The plants of this order, though affording wholesome food to the inhabitants of the East and West Indies, and other hot climates, are not to be eaten with impunity in these colder regions; yet, considered as luxuries of the table, and welcome additions to other viands, they are much prized, and carefully cultivated in England.

Few of our culinary vegetables possess less nutritious qualities than the cucumber, but the coolness of its nature, and its refreshing bitter taste, make it agreeable as a salad. When thus used, and accompanied by the usual condiments, it stimulates the appetite, and imparts a relish to food. Yet it is in itself unwholesome, or even dangerous to persons of delicate constitutions; and none but the robust and hardy may venture to partake of it without some caution. It may be rendered harmless by being stewed in gravy, and thus cooked it is esteemed by many persons a dainty dish.

A fresh loam, rather inclining to lightness than tenacity, is recommended for the cucumber: the top soil of a pasture often affords the kind of loam best suited to this crop. The cucumber generally succeeds well, either under the hand glass or in the open ground. A warm, well-sheltered, south-west border is particularly favourable to its growth, and the directions for its culture are as follows:—The border being dug regularly over, and saucer-like hollows, about fifteen inches in diameter, and one or two deep, formed five feet apart, the seed may be sown six or eight in each. If the weather is dry, it will be requisite to water the beds moderately two or three days after sowing. In four or five days the plants will probably make their appearance; and until they have attained their rough leaves, it will be necessary to guard them from birds, which often devour the seed-leaves, and thus destroy the crop. It is said to improve the growth and flavour of cucumbers if the plants are trained over a hedge or bush instead of being allowed to trail on the ground.

The above mode of culture is only available in favourable seasons; but it is worth trying, as being an easy and inexpensive method of obtaining this luxury, and one which might often be practised in cottagers' gardens, where hand-glasses and frames are not procurable. In many of the market gardens round London, where acres of early cabbages are planted, and are partially cleared by the middle of May, patches of ground are dug up and hollowed out, and in each of these ten or a dozen cucumber-seeds are sown. When up, and on the appearance of the rough leaves, they are thinned out to four or five in a patch, the hollows filled up, and the plants left to take their natural course. Sometimes a large crop of fruit is thus obtained, and a sum of money realized by the owners, at little trouble to themselves.

The sowing of cucumber-seeds in hot-beds, and the different methods of forcing this plant, belong to another season, and cannot be entered on here. The chief varieties of cucumber are: the Early Short Prickly

which grows to about four inches long, and is one of the hardiest and earliest sorts, and the best for the open ground; it also produces a large quantity of fruit, much of which is used in its early state for pickling. The Early Long Prickly is another abundantly-bearing variety, but slower in coming to perfection. It is about seven inches in length, and is generally employed for the main crops. There is another and a longer sub-variety, which grows to the length of ten inches, and which is also hardy and a good bearer. The Early Green Cluster is a very early bearer: it is named from the fruit growing in clusters. It is a compact plant fitted for the hand-frame. The White Dutch Prickly is about six inches long, comes quickly into bearing, and has an agreeable flavour, but different from the others. The remaining varieties are slow in coming to perfection, and chiefly remarkable for their large size. The Nepal cucumber, for instance, is sometimes eight inches in diameter and seventeen in length; while another kind, called the Snake, is very small in diameter, but has been made to attain the length of several feet.

Much care has of late years been bestowed on the culture of several species of gourd; the vegetable marrow, especially, is now so common that it affords a valuable addition to our list of vegetables. In Cowper's time the proper culture of gourds and cucumbers was but newly attained, and he speaks of it as no unworthy occupation of the self-sequestered man.

To raise the prickly and green-coated gourd,
So grateful to the palate, and when rare
So coveted, else base and disesteem'd—
Food for the vulgar merely—is an art
That toiling ages have but just matured,
And at this moment unessayed in song.

The seed of vegetable marrows or other gourds may be sown in the open ground in a warm situation, in the first week of June, if the weather be favourable; but the gardener generally has young plants which have been raised in hot-beds, and which are now fit to be transplanted to a southern border, where a paling or hedge will allow of their being trained over it. They are treated exactly in the same way as the cucumber, except that they do not require so much care. Abundance of water must be given, and when the runners have extended three feet, if they are pegged down, and some earth drawn over them at a joint, fresh roots will be formed, and the whole plant will remain longer in bearing. The gardener's preparatory steps in the culture of this description of plants are thus noticed by Cowper.

The seed, selected wisely, plump, and smooth,
And glossy, he commits to pots of size
Diminutive, well filled with well-prepared
And fruitful soil, that has been treasured long,
And drank no moisture from the dripping clouds.
These on the warm and genial earth, that hides
The smoking manure, and o'erspreads it all,
He places lightly, and, as time subdues
The rage of fermentation, plunges deep
In the soft medium, till they stand immersed.
Then rise the tender germs, upstarting quick,
And spreading wide their spongy lobes, at first
Pale, wan, and livid; but assuming soon,
If fann'd by balmy and nutritious air,
Strain'd through the friendly mats, a vivid green.
Cautious he pinches from the second stalk
A pimple, that portends a future sprout,
And interdicts its growth. Then straight succeed
The branches, sturdy to his utmost wish;
Prolific all, and harbingers of more.
The crowded roots demand enlargement now,
And transplantation in an ample space.
Indulged in what they wish, they soon supply
Large foliage, o'ershadowing golden flowers,
Blown on the summit of the apparet fruit.

The main sowings for a supply of endive may be made towards the close of June. These will afford a succession of this useful salad to come in after the plants for

which the sowings were made in May. The garden endive (*Cichorium endiva*) is a hardy annual, generally considered to be a native of China and Japan, where it is abundantly cultivated if not found actually growing wild. This plant was introduced into England in the reign of Edward the Sixth, in 1548; but has never been much in use except as a winter and spring salad. In France it stands in much higher favour than among ourselves; being extensively used, either boiled in ragouts, or fried with roast meat, or as a pickle, as well as being applied to the ordinary use as a salad. This well-known plant produces, from the crown of the root, a great quantity of large smooth leaves, divided into lobes, and toothed at the edges. The flowering stem is about two feet high, and the flowers, which are of a pale blue colour, expand their blossoms in July or August. The leaves of this plant, in their natural state, are extremely harsh and bitter, but when deprived of air and light, and thus blanched like the heart of a lettuce, they part with their extreme bitterness, and only retain that quality in a moderate degree. If the blanching be properly performed, endive becomes very crisp, tender, and agreeable. Of this plant there are three varieties; but the green curled is the only one cultivated for the main crops. The method of preparing the ground, and of sowing, does not differ from that employed for other kinds of salad. Slight waterings must be given in dry weather, and the plants, when of a month old, in the seed-bed, may be transplanted to a rich, well-prepared border. The larger seedlings are taken first, and the smaller ones, freed from weeds, are left in the seed-bed, and with gentle waterings, the latter will so much improve as to afford a second successional crop. There may still be a few of the smaller plants left in their native bed, and if the soil be at all favourable, they will often attain a finer growth than those which have been transplanted. In removing these plants, if they are placed in more than one row, the triangular mode of arranging them should be adopted, as they then get more air, and are not so likely to decay while blanching. Warm weather is the most favourable for this process of blanching; but under proper precautions it is performed at any season. The usual plans are to tie the leaves together in the same manner as with the lettuce; to place tiles or pieces of board upon the plants; or to cover them with garden-pots. Either of these methods will succeed in dry seasons, but not in wet ones. The following has been recommended as succeeding in all seasons. Fold the leaves of the plant round the heart as much as possible in their natural position; tie them very closely together with a shred of bass mat, and then cover up the plant entirely with coal-ashes in the form of a cone, the surface being rendered firm and smooth with a trowel. Sand will answer the same purpose, and is a more agreeable covering; but where this is not plentiful, coal-ashes will be found very effectual, and in respect of absorbing heat, and thus hastening the intended process, they are superior to sand. In a week after the first tying, a ligature must be passed round the middle of each plant to prevent the heart-leaves from bursting out. The process of blanching will be completed in about three weeks; so that a sufficient supply for use must be tied up in succession.

There is a hardy perennial plant, called Succory, or wild endive, growing rather commonly about the edges of our fields. This appears to be the *Cichorium* mentioned by Theophrastus, and in use among the ancients. For the garden endive there are different names in different countries; but in all the languages of modern Europe the name given to the wild endive is merely a corruption of the original Greek word. This plant is not generally applied to any economical purpose in England; but on the continent it is employed as an edible vegetable. In France, and sometimes in our own country, succory has been cultivated as food for cattle. In

many parts of Germany and Holland, the fleshy root of this plant is dried and ground as a substitute for coffee, or to mix with it. It has been said that the plant might be cultivated amongst us for this purpose with great national advantage, and that the beverage obtained from it is superior to coffee itself; but after due trial, very few persons, probably, would be inclined to assent to this opinion.

The gardener's task of sowing successional crops to replace those which are now being cleared for use still goes on, and there is not much variety in this respect in the proceedings of the present month. The late crops of peas are provided for by sowing Prussian blue, Knight's marrowfats, early frame, and Charlton. The latest crop of broad beans is sown, and is of the white-blossomed sort. Among kidney-beans, the dwarf and the runners are sown the first week in June; and again in the course of the month once or twice. White, yellow, Dutch, and Swedish turnips are sown for the autumnal and winter crops; carrots in the second or third week, and onions for drawing young. Winter crops of potatoes, of the kidney and other late sorts, are planted; and towards the end of the month, cabbage, broccoli, borecole, and savoy plants, are removed chiefly into nursery-beds; but some to remain for early supply. Celery plants are now placed out in manured trenches, and kept well watered. Attention is paid to the crops of peas, to provide them with sticking, to dig between the rows, and earth up the stems. By carefulness in these respects, the productiveness of peas is secured for a longer period than would otherwise be the case.

While the various productions of the garden grow, spread, and increase as they do in this genial month, an active hand is required to clear away all incumbrances of the soil, and to secure every vacant spot of ground as it is cleared, bringing it into immediate cultivation; all kinds of weeds and extraneous vegetation should be removed to a pit, or compost heap, where they may be undergoing those processes which will convert them into valuable soil. A shady spot of the garden, which would be of little avail for other purposes, may be conveniently used for striking cuttings and slips of herbs. Slips of southernwood, lavender, hyssop, sage, and other aromatic herbs, may be taken in June; and if shaded and watered, are almost sure to succeed. This is also the time for gathering culinary herbs, such as mint, balm, and sage, which are used in a dry state during the winter. These are cut in dry weather, and suspended in the open air under the shelter of a shed, until they are sufficiently dry to be stored. The full aroma of herbs is possessed by them just previously to blossoming, therefore they should always be gathered before they come into full bloom. With respect to mint, it may be observed, that as green mint is a very desirable herb in the course of the winter, it is worth while, where the means are at hand, to take up some roots in open weather, after the plant has ceased sending up shoots, and plant them in a moderate hot-bed, or in pots or boxes. In this way, if well protected, this herb may be obtained, in the green state, at any season. In about a fortnight or three weeks from the time of planting, if saved from the attacks of frost, young shoots and buds will begin to be produced of a proper size for use.

MAY-MORNING.

Now the bright morning-star—day's harbinger—
Comes dancing from the East, and leads with her
The flowery May, that from her green lap throws
The yellow cowslip, and the pale primrose.
Hail! bounteous May,—thou dost inspire
Mirth, and youth, and gay desire:
Wood and dale are of thy dressing;
Hill and valley own thy blessing.
Thus we salute thee with our early song,
And welcome thee, and wish thee long.—MILTON.

JOHN W. PARKER, PUBLISHER, WEST STRAND, LONDON.